(JJP) godown of FCI in Calcutta Port Trust Area. The situation has improved since then.

In the aforesaid context, there seems to be no scope for fixing responsibility on any FCI officers.

Import and Export of Pepper and Cardamom

*178. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of income to Government from export cess on pepper in the last three years;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the cess is affecting adversely the export of pepper;

(c) if so, whether Government would take steps to abolish the export cess on pepper;

(d) the quantity of cardamom imported by India during 1995-96;

(e) the reasons for Government not stopping the import of cardamom as its price in India is falling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The revenue from cess on export of "Black Pepper" during the last three years is given below:—

Year	Revenue (Rs: Crores)
1993-94 (Actuals)	0.60
1994-95 (Revised Estimates)	0.60
1995-96 (Budget)	0.65

Source: Receipts-Budget Document 1995-96 of Ministry of Finance.

(b) and (c) Presently cess on export of spices including pepper is collected under the provisions of the following Acts:—

	RATE OF CESS
(i) The Agricultural Produce Cess Act, 1940	0.5% Ad valorem
(ii) The Spices Cess Act, 1986	2% Ad valorem
(a) Spices in raw form	1% Ad valorem
(b) Spices in the form of curry powder, spice oils & oloresins, other mixtures where spice content is predominant	

Cess on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine) under the provisions of the Spices Cess Act, 1986 was exempted upto 31.03.1996. Review of taxation burden on exports including cess is an ongoing process and, as and when considered necessary, exemptions on specified items are notified. Such exemptions from levy of cess are expected to make our agricultural exports more competitive.

(d) Quantities of cardamom imported during 1995-96 are as under:—

	QTY (MT)	Value (Rs. lakh)
(i) Small Cardamom	53.36	39.38
(ii) Large Cardamom	2552.25	1040.61
(iii) Others (Incl. Large Seeds)	20.92	8.28
Total	2626.53	1088.27

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(e) Cardamom being a consumer item, is under the negative list of import and hence cannot be imported except against an import licence.

Child Labour in Bidi Sector

*179. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed to regulate child labour in bidi sector;

(b) whether it is a fact that large number of children are engaged in bidi sector;

(c) if so, how does Government propose to monitor and curb such child labour in bidi sector; and

(d) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Section 3 of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children in certain occupation and processes, including bidi making. To prevent engagement of children in contravention of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, enforcement machinery exists both at the Central and State levels for enforcement of the Act in the Bidi making establishments, the State Governments are the appropriate Government. Employers are liable to be prosecuted for violation of the provisions of this Act.

(b) Industry wise employment of child labour is not maintained.

(c) and (d) Government is presently engaged in the task of eliminating child labour which is estimated at 20 lakhs. Under the National Child Labour Projects Scheme, presently 76 projects are under implementation in all States to cover around 1,51,000 children. These projects also cover children withdrawn from bidi making in States like Orissa. Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. A major activity undertaken under the NCLP is establishment of special schools to provide education upto primary level, impart vocational training, and provide supplementary nutrition etc., to the children from hazardous employments. In addition, the National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour has also adopted a plan of action titled "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour" to tackle the problem of child labour in the country. Briefly, it calls for a convergence of services and schemes of the Central and State Governments at the implementing level the District-to inter alia ensure the identification and rehabilitation of child labour, the economic rehabilitation of the family with child labour and stricter enforcement of relevant laws. This plan of action has been sent to all the States/UTs for follow-up.

मांस का निर्यात

*180. **श्री राधवजी:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:—

(क) क्या सच है कि भारत से मांस के निर्यात में प्रति वर्ष वृद्धि हो रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत पांच वर्षों के दौरान प्रति वर्ष भारत से कितनी-कितनी मात्रा में मांस का निर्यात किया गया;

(ग) क्या सरकार को मांस के निर्यात के विरोध में कोई ज्ञापन मिला है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(ङ) 1996 में विदेशों को माह-वार और दिशा-वार कितनी-कितनी मात्रा में मांस का निर्यात किया गया?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बोला बुल्ली रमैया): (क) जी हां।

(ख) पिछले पांच वर्षों में प्रत्येक वर्ष भारत से निर्यात किए गए मांस की मात्रा निम्नानुसार थी:

वर्ष	मात्रा (एमटी)
1991-92	89208
1992-93	95334
1993-94	112793
1994-95	127751
1995-96	172695

(स्रोत: डी जी सी आई एण्ड एस, कलकत्ता)

(ग) और (घ) पशुओं के वध तथा मांस के निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के संबंध में कुछ अभ्यावेदन मिलते रहे हैं। सरकार की नीति में कुछ शर्तों के अधीन मांच का निर्यात करने के अनुमति है। किंत गौ के मांस